

I Have Sinned Against The Lord

So what happens when your self-control fails you? It would be wonderful if we all practiced it perfectly, but unfortunately, we do not. How do we respond? It's so important to God.

We look back to David to learn and see ourselves in the mirror. Brethren, blessings can come in the least expected time and places.

History: David was at the peak of his rule as King. Not to say he hadn't been through difficult times already, but he was now serving as a victorious and faithful King. He was also enjoying the benefits of trusting in God. Until one day, during a time when kings go out to battle, David stayed behind as his army fought. From the top of his roof, he saw a beautiful woman bathing. He found out it was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (one of his elite mighty men). She was washing because she had been purifying herself (probably due to her menstrual cycle, according to the law). He took her and slept with her. She conceived and told David she was pregnant. In an attempt to hide the affair, he called for Uriah to return home from war. After talking with Uriah, David encouraged him to return home and wash his feet. David sent him off with a gift. However, Uriah didn't return home. Instead, he slept at the door of the King's house. David questioned him, and Uriah explained how he couldn't go home, eat, drink, and lay with his wife when the men were at war, and the ark and Israel dwelled in booths. So, David told him to remain with him until the next day. David provided a meal for him and made him drunk. However, he still didn't go home. He stayed with David's servants. David's plan didn't work. What is a man to do? Confess? No, that wasn't an option. Uriah had to die. So he sent him back to battle with a note for Joab. He was carrying his own death sentence. David told the army commander Joab to put Uriah on the front lines and then pull back. This all came to pass. Bathsheba heard about the death of her husband and lamented over him. When the mourning ended, David took her as his wife, and she had their child. "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord."

The Blessings of Confession - 2 Samuel 12:1-15

- It forced David to agree with God's judgment.
- It forced David to clearly see himself.
- It forced David to feel the hurt he caused others.
- It forced David to accept the consequences of sin.
- It provided the opportunity for David to confess to God.
- It provided the opportunity for God to forgive David.

Penitential Psalms

- Psalm 51
 - He recognized God's love and mercy (1).
 - He understood who he ultimately sinned against and made no excuses (2-6).
 - He found a renewed spirit because of the joy of God's salvation (7-12).
 - He could, at that point, teach others and be acceptable to God (13-19).
- Psalm 32

- He proclaimed the blessing of forgiven and covered sins (1-2 and Romans 4:7-8)
- He remembered the toll of hiding his sin (3-4)
- He recalled the Lord's swift forgiveness (5)
- He learned how God could protect and save (6-7)
- He understood the foolishness of rejecting God (8-9)
- He believed trusting in God would result in joy (10-11 and 2 Corinthians 7:10).